

Message Text

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SUBJ: ECOSOC ORGANIZATION MEETING: UNICEF ELECTIONS

REF: USUN 0075

1. AT JANUARY 15 MEETING, ECOSOC HELD PARTIAL ELECTIONS FOR UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD, ELECTING JAPAN, BRAZIL, POLAND, AND USSR. ELECTIONS TO FILL SIX ADDITIONAL VACANCIES WILL BE HELD AT THE APRIL-MAY SESSION.

2. PRIOR TO ELECTION, WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUP (WEO) REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS UNTIL SPRING SESSION AS WEO GROUP HAD NOT ARRIVED AT AGREED SLATE OF CANDIDATES. AFRICAN GROUP ALSO LACKED AGREED SLATE. PARTIAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD AT INSISTENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN, ASIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN GROUPS WHO ARGUED DELAY IN ELECTIONS WOULD HOLD UP WORK OF THE BOARD. JAPAN WAS THUS ELECTED AS ASIAN RATHER THAN WEO GROUP CANDIDATE. WEO GROUP PRESENTLY HAS FOLLOWING CAIDIDATES TO FILL ITS ALLOTMENT OF THREE OF THE REMAINING SIX SEATS: US, ITALY, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, SPAIN, CANADA.

3. WE ASSUME THAT FRANCE AND ITALY, LIKE THE US, WILL INSIST ON THE FIRMNESS OF THEIR CANDIDACIES AND THAT THERE WILL BE PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS MATTER IN THE WEO GROUP PRIOR TO THE SPRING SESSION.

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